

William Anastasi and Dove Bradshaw

Stalke Galleri
Vesterbrogade 15 a

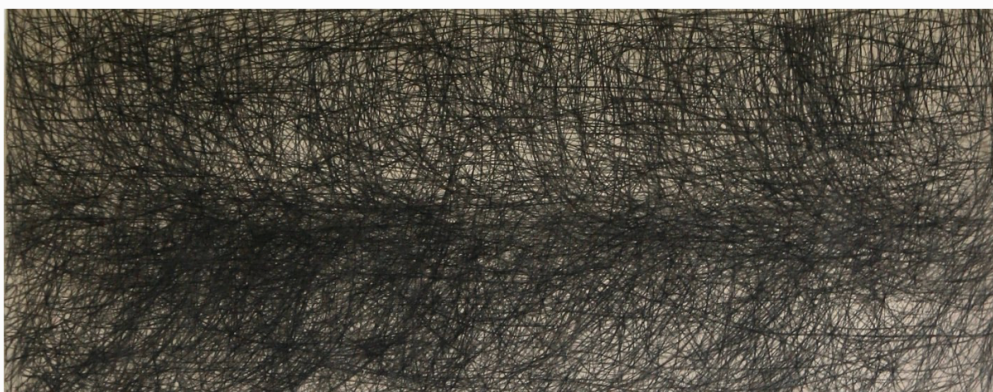
October- November 1989

In Berlingske Tidende, Torben Weirup reviewed William Anastasi's exhibition at Stalke Galleri as a significant encounter with American conceptual art, in which process, method, and a deliberate renunciation of control are central elements. Weirup particularly highlighted Anastasi's so-called blind drawings as radical investigations of chance, bodily movement, and time, where the work comes into being without the artist's visual overview. The drawings were described as dense, vibrating traces of action rather than images in a traditional sense.

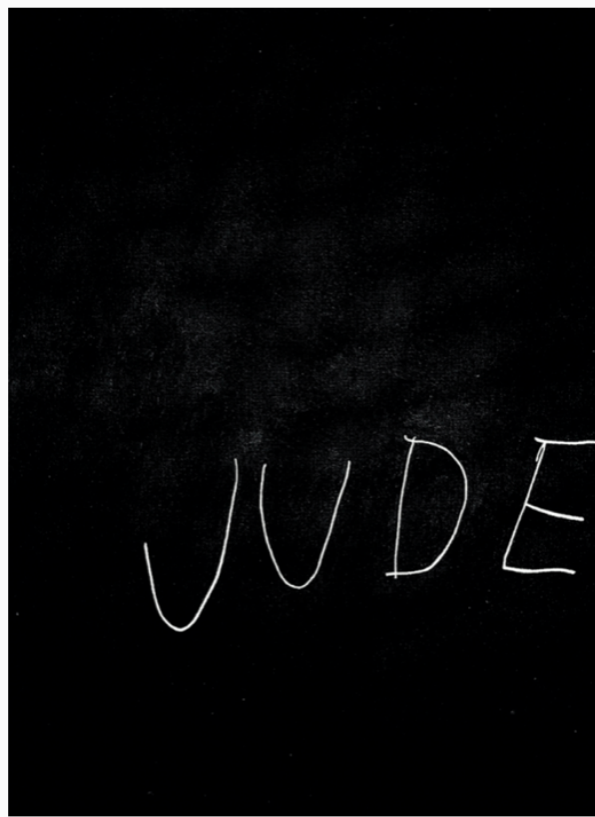
Weirup paid special attention to the text-based work *Jude*, describing it as a simple yet deeply unsettling element within the exhibition. The almost monochrome image with the word written in a childlike hand was read as an example of how Anastasi, using minimal means, activates linguistic, historical, and ethical associations. The work was emphasized for its direct and uncomfortable clarity, which breaks with the exhibition's otherwise more processual and abstract character.

Overall, Weirup interpreted Anastasi's practice as a clear example of American conceptual art's focus on systems, rules, and deliberate limitation—serving as an important corrective to more expressive and narrative art forms. The works insist on being experienced as processes and mental displacements rather than finished statements, challenging the viewer's expectations of intention and composition.

Although the exhibition was presented as a collaboration between William Anastasi and Dove Bradshaw, the review addressed exclusively Anastasi's works. Bradshaw's contribution thus did not enter the contemporary critical reception; nevertheless, the exhibition as a whole marked Stalke Galleri as a site where international conceptual positions were introduced and discussed within a Danish context.



William Anastasi, Blind Drawing on canvas, 1989



William Anastasi, JUDE, 1988

Quotes as Context

In the exhibition featuring the work *Jude*, the inclusion of selected quotes from the *Concept Art Catalogue*, page 20, provides a crucial contextual framework for the piece. The text-based work *Jude*, with its almost childlike inscription, confronts the viewer with the historical weight of language and the persistent ideological violence embedded in words.

By presenting the selected quotes—spanning philosophers, scientists, religious figures, and political leaders—the exhibition illuminates how recurring statements, prejudices, and rhetorical structures have shaped collective thought across centuries. These quotes function not as illustrations, but as conceptual extensions of the work, supporting Anastasi's method of revealing systems of belief rather than personal expression.

Placed in dialogue with *Jude*, the quotes amplify the work's unsettling clarity. They demonstrate how minimal means—single words, found statements, and restrained gestures—can activate deep ethical, historical, and political associations. In this context, *Jude* emerges not only as an artwork but also as a cognitive trigger, demanding reflection rather than resolution.

'QUOTES'

Freud:

Hatred for Judaism is at bottom hatred for Christianity.

Einstein:

If my theory of relativity is proven successful, Germany will claim me as a German and France will claim me as a citizen of the world. Should my theory prove untrue, France will say that I am German, and Germany will declare that I am a Jew.

Einstein:

Arrows of hate have been shot at me too; but they never hit me, because somehow they belonged to another world, with which I have no connection whatever.

Heine:

Since the Exodus, Freedom has always spoken with a Hebrew accent.

Harry Bridges:

No man has ever been born a Negro hater, a Jew hater, or any other kind of hater. Nature refuses to be involved in such suicidal practices.

William C. Menninger:

Throughout history people have used a series of ... objects on which to project their insecurity: werewolves, incubi, witches, mental patients, Christians, Jews, Catholics, Negroes and many other innocent victims. ... This insecurity is a fear ... of being conquered by (a) horde that is different in some way ... Through any means of ... persecution ... we maintain our security.

George Eliot:

The Jews are among the aristocracy of every land; if a literature is called rich in the possession of a few classic tragedies, what shall we say to a national tragedy lasting for fifteen hundred years, in which the poets and actors were also the heroes.

Vicki Baum:

To be a Jew is a destiny.

Pope Pius IV:

We order that each and every Jew of both sexes in our temporal dominions, and in all the cities, lands, places and baronies subject to them, shall depart completely out of the confines thereof within the space of three months and after these letters shall have been made public.

Luther:

Jews and papists are ungodly wretches; they are two stockings made of the same cloth.

Goering:

I determine who is a Jew.

Voltaire:

If it were permitted to reason consistently in religious matters, it is clear that we all ought to become Jews, because Jesus Christ our saviour was born a Jew, lived a Jew, died a Jew, and he said expressly that he was fulfilling the Jewish religion.

Disraeli:

Christianity is completed Judaism, or it is nothing.

Seymour Siegel:

The central problem of Christianity is: if the Messiah has come why is the world so evil? For Judaism, the problem is: if the world is so evil, why does the Messiah not come?

Israel Zangwill:

The Jews are a frightened people. Nineteen centuries of Christian love have broken down their nerves.

Zangwill:

Take from me the hope that I can change the future, and you will send me mad.

Erich von Ludendorff:

I decline Christianity because it is Jewish, because it is international, and because, in cowardly fashion, it preaches Peace on Earth.

Hitler:

Anti-Semitism is a useful revolutionary expedient. My Jews are a valuable hostage given to me by democracy.

Hitler:

The curse of Mt. Sinai ... This is what we are fighting against: the masochistic spirit of self torment, the curse of so called mortals, idolized to protect the weak from the strong in the face of the immortal law of battle, the great law of divine nature. Against the so-called Ten Commandments, against them we are fighting.

Hitler:

I believe today that I am acting in the sense of the Almighty Creator. By warding off the Jews I am fighting for the Lord's work.

Goebbels:

Christ cannot possibly have been a Jew. I don't have to prove that scientifically. It is a fact.

Hitler:

The victor will never be asked if he told the truth.

Anastasi



Dove Bradshaw

